

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6198

S E C R E T WARSAW 4653

NODIS

FOR SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PL (GERALD R. FORD)

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF WARSAW 4652

1. DURING OUR 1:00 P.M. MEETING JULY 20 WITH SPASOWSKI AND HIS TEAM, THE POLES HANDED OVER A DETAILED SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SECOND DAY WOULD BE SPENT IN KRAKOW. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT THE KRAKOW SCHEDULING WAS SUBJECT TO THE HROVISO HE HAD STATED THIS MORNING, I.E., THAT HE COULD NOT PREJUDGE THE FIRST SECRETARY'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL THAT THE PRESIDENT VISIT KRAKOW.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CAN NOW EASILY OVERCOME THIS HURDLE IF WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A VISIT TO OSWIECIM.

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE DETAILED SCHEDULE, SPASOWSKI ASKED DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL LEWANDOWSKI TO COMMENT ON THE PROGRAM AT OSWIECIM. LEWANDOWSKI SAID THAT THE TIME WAS VERY SHORT, SO THE PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST SIMPLY IN (A) A SHORT WALK, FROM THE RAILHEAD TO THE MONUMENT; (B) THE LAYING OF A WREATH AND A MOMENT OF REVERENCE BEFORE THE MONUMENT; (C) A VISIT TO THE CREMATORIUM AND A BARRACKS NEAR THE MONUMENT, AND (D) REENTERING HE VEHICLES TO RETURN TO KRAKOW.

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ALTOGETHER, THE TIME SPENT AT OSWIECIM WOULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT

30 MINUTES AND THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO SPEECHES.

4. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA DESCRIBED BY LEWANDOWSKI. SINCE THE PROGRAM DOES NOT INVOLVE A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM AND TO THE ADJACENT BARRACKS, WHICH CONTAIN HUMAN HAIR, SPECTACLE, AND TEETH, IT APPEARS ACCEPTABLE TO ME, IF REPEAT IF WE ARE PREPARED TO INCLUDE OSWIECIM IN THE ITINERARY. WE WOULD HHAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM WAS KEPT VERY STRICTLY TO THE OUT-LINE GIVEN BY LEWANDOWSKI AND WAS NOT REPEAT NOT EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE MORE GRUESOME ASPECTS PRESENTED BY THE MUSEUM AND BARRACKS ADJACENT TO IT. THESE ARE, HOWEVER, AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THE MONUMENT AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THEM.

DAVIES

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